

TROY RECREATION DEPARTMENT
MEN'S AND CO-ED SOFTBALL LEAGUES

2016 ADULT SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Calendar of Events

April 19	Schedules posted on league website http://troymi.gov/PlayHere/Outdoor/Sports/AdultSports/Softball.aspx
April 19	Initial Deadline for Team Roster/Waiver Forms (for first game) <u>NO EXCEPTIONS!</u>
Week of April 25	Summer Season Begins
Late July	Summer Playoffs Begin



Rules and Regulations

These rules and regulations are supplemented by the Troy Adult Athletic Rules and Regulations Handbook.

The official 2016 A.S.A. Slow Pitch Softball Playing Rules shall govern all league play except as noted:

- A) A team may begin or finish game with eight (8) certified players. A ninth or tenth player arriving late must bat in the ninth/tenth position when entering the game. If a team starts with 10 players, they may finish with as few as eight players. **NOTE: For each scheduled batter that is not available to bat when due up, their team will receive an "automatic" out.**
- B) Catcher/infield masks and catcher/infield chest protectors are permitted.
- C) Over the fence homerun limit is five (5). Any in excess, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and no runners can advance.
- D) Optional - Each team is allowed to have one "courtesy runner" during a game. The courtesy runner must be for the same player throughout the game and must be notified to the umpire and scorekeeper prior to the start of the game. If they are substituted for, the courtesy runner is no longer in effect for a different player. The courtesy runner must be the person in the line-up who made the last out. In Co-ed leagues, the courtesy runner must be of the same gender as the player who requires a runner. Violation of this rule shall result in a forfeiture of the game.
- E) No steel or metal spikes are allowed. All-purpose sports shoes may be worn. Some type of footwear must be worn.



- F) **Continuous batting order (optional)** - Any/all players present at game starting time may be placed in the batting line-up (optional). Once the game has started this rule cannot be instituted. A team may not change their batting line-up during the game and must bat all players for that game if this rule is used. A manager can bat any number of players they choose (i.e. 13 of 15 present) as long as this is done at the start of the game. Other players may be used as substitutes, if desired. For each scheduled batter that is not available to bat when due up, their team must receive an automatic "out".
- G) **Standings** – Standings will be based on win/loss records and will be posted at Boulan and Flynn Parks and on the City of Troy website. In case of a tie for first place, tie break rules will determine league champion. Adult Athletic Handbook tie-breaker rules are as follows: Ties will be decided by the following: 1)head-to-head competition between teams involved, 2)run differential in games between tied teams, 3)overall run differential.
- H) Stealing is not permitted in Troy Recreation Department softball leagues.
- I) ASA rules regarding bats will be followed for all divisions of play. Updated bat listings may be found on the Metro Detroit ASA website www.metrodetroitasa.org

1. Noted below are A.S.A. rules emphasized for reasons of clarification:

- A) **Pitching Rule:** The ball must be delivered at a moderate speed underhand - below the hip - with a perceptive arch (from the time it leaves the pitcher's hand) of at least six feet from the ground, before the ball reaches home plate. The pitched ball should not reach height of more than ten feet at its highest point above the ground. Speed of the pitch and height are left entirely to judgment of the umpire. Pitcher may pitch from 50 – 53 feet. Pitcher must start within the frame of the pitching rubber and follow all ASA pitching rules for start and delivery (ASA rule 6-C).
- B) **Appeal Plays:** On appeal plays, the appeal must be made before the next legal or illegal pitch, or before the defensive team has left the field. The defensive team has "left the field" when the pitcher and all infielders have clearly left their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory on their way to the bench or dugout area.

Dead Ball Instant Appeal:

Not until time out has been requested and granted by the umpire, or all play has stopped and the umpire calls time (8-7-I), will this rule go into effect. The ball remains dead until the next pitch, and nothing can happen. Once the ball has been returned to the infield and time has been called, any infielder (including the pitcher or catcher) with or without possession of the ball, may make a verbal appeal on a runner missing a base or leaving a base too soon. The plate umpire should acknowledge the appeal, and the administering umpire should then make a decision on the play. Base runners cannot leave their base during this period, as the ball remains dead until the next pitch.

NOTE: 1) If the pitcher has possession of the ball and is in contact with the pitching plate when making a verbal appeal, no illegal pitch is called. 2) If the umpire has indicated, "play ball" and the pitcher now requests an appeal, the umpire would again call "time out" and allow the appeal process.

- C) Overthrows: When the ball is in play and is deflected or is overthrown beyond the boundary lines. EFFECT - all runners will be awarded two bases and the award will be governed by the position of the runners when the ball left any fielder's hand. EXCEPTIONS: see rulebook for clarification.
- D) No player's name shall be on the starting line-ups unless the player is available in the team area (dugout).
- E) The pitcher shall take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and with one or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate. This position must be maintained at least one second and not more than 10 seconds before starting the delivery.
- F) The batter must take his/her position within 10 seconds after being directed to do so by the umpire.
- G) **RE-ENTRY RULE:**
Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he/she is in the lineup. (Any player not available to bat when due up will receive an automatic out).
Situation - Player "A" appears in the line-up as one of the starters and is replaced by Player "B". Player "A" may re-enter the game once, but must re-enter in the same batting position.
NOTE: The original player and the substitute(s) cannot be in the lineup at the same time.
 - 1) Violation of the re-entry rule results in the use of an illegal player.
 - 2) Violation of the re-entry rule is handled as a protest, which can be made anytime during the game.
- H) **FAKE TAG:** When a runner is obstructed while advancing or returning to base by a fielder who neither has the ball nor is attempting to field a batted ball, or a fielder without the ball fakes the tag, the umpire shall award the obstructed runner and each other runner affected by the obstruction the bases they would have reached in his judgment, had there been no obstruction. The runner does not have to stop or slide, only slow down, to be considered a fake tag. A "FAKE TAG" in game play may result in that player being removed from the game. No warning is required.
- I) **BLOOD RULE:** A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgement. The umpire shall:

- 1) Stop the game and allow treatment if the injured player would affect the continuation of the game.
 - 2) Immediately call a coach, trainer or other authorized person to attend to the injured player.
 - 3) Apply the rules of the game regarding substitution, short-handed player or re-entry if necessary.
- J) Double first base will be used in games played at Boulan and Flynn parks. ASA rule 8-2-N
- K) **One and One Count - ASA Rule 7-3-B:** Adult Slow Pitch Only. Prior to the pitch the batter will enter the batter's box with a one ball one strike count. Batters will be permitted one foul ball after 2 strikes have been reached. Any foul balls after the first foul ball following 2 strikes, will be an out.
2. No team may have more than twenty (20) players rostered at any time. All participants in this league shall be 18 years of age or older, by the time they sign the team roster. Individuals presently attending high school may not be concurrently participating in inter-scholastic softball. Leagues Over/35, Over/40 & Over/43 - must be specified age as of December 31 of current year.
 3. All leagues conducted through the Troy Recreation Department are also under guidelines of the Metro Detroit Amateur Softball Association, thus we will honor all MDASA suspensions/probations.
 4. Game time is forfeit time - No inning shall begin 65 minutes after the start of the game, with no inning after 10:50 p.m. For 6:20pm games only, a 10-minute grace period will be allowed. Once a team has the minimum number of players required to start a game, the game will begin immediately. The 65-minute time limit will begin at 6:20 pm (original game starting time).
Lights will be turned off at 11:00 p.m. No game should start after 10:00 p.m., if need be, the game would be rescheduled. If a game does start after 10:00 p.m., please be aware that you may not play a complete game (time wise or innings), but the game will count as an official game. Complete games are those in which a losing team gets to bat at least five innings, unless halted because of the time limit. The time limit begins when the umpire declares "play ball" after the pre-game meeting/or if the manager does not show to the pre-game conference, the time limit begins immediately.
 5. Make up games may be scheduled on any day of the week. It is the team's responsibility to contact Recreation Department prior to season starting with days that team is not available for make ups.
 6. Playoffs will involve the top four teams from each league in a separate double-elimination tournament. Only four teams will make playoffs. If ties exist, tie break rules will determine final standings. Playoffs will begin in late July or early August depending when the regular season is completed. Playoff games may be played any day of the week, not necessarily the day of their league play.

7. A team forfeiting three (3) games may be dropped from the league for the remainder of the current season. This does not include a forfeited first regular scheduled game due to not enough player registration forms submitted by the initial deadline.
8. In all leagues there is a Mercy Rule. If after the fifth inning there is a thirteen (13) run or more difference in the score, the game will be officially ended. The visiting team must bat at least five times.
9. Uniforms are not required, but are optional. Players should have a large number on their shirts with no duplicate numbers. Players with dissimilar shirts shall announce their names to the scorekeeper each time they bat. No forfeits will be awarded for being out of uniform. Players are not required to wear caps. Only baseball style hats/visors are permissible.
10. Residency Guidelines
Residence means that place at which a person habitually sleeps, keeps his or her personal effects, and maintains a regular place or lodging, with the intention of maintaining such residence. A Troy resident shall not be deemed to have lost such residency by virtue of enrollment and attendance at an institution of learning. A person must be a resident in the City of Troy up until at least the first regular scheduled game in their respective league to be classified as a resident.

In addition, persons employed on a full or part time basis as of April 1 of the current year by a company located within the City of Troy, and who perform their employment duties within the City of Troy, shall be deemed residents. Any deviation from these guidelines may be considered by the department on an individual basis. Teachers working during the school year within the City limits will be considered residents. Persons deemed to be a resident by virtue of their employment must submit at a minimum, a letter on company letterhead, from the president, owner, general manager, or personnel director of his or her place of employment verifying the fact, beginning date, location and nature of such employment. Failure to submit proof letter will result in player not being eligible for play. The person who signs the letter must not be a member of that team. The department reserves the right to require additional proof for residency or employment verification if it deems necessary. Non-residents will be charged a \$30.00 fee. This fee is non-transferable and is payable when the player registration form is submitted. This fee is non-refundable even if a player later obtains resident status. Each team may have an unlimited number of non-residents on their roster at any time.

11. Disciplinary Procedures
THREATS to any official or City employee will not be tolerated. If a threat is made to an official or City employee, person(s) will be suspended indefinitely pending a hearing.
FIGHTING will not be tolerated. If a fight occurs, the player(s) involved will be suspended indefinitely pending a hearing.
ABUSE whether verbal or physical by any person, physically touching or making an obscene gesture at an umpire/official/city employee, will be suspended indefinitely pending a hearing. All cases are subject to review by the Recreation Department to

determine length of suspension. Suspension may also occur through the playoffs and carry over to following season.

If a hearing is required, a certified return-receipt letter will be sent to the individual with a copy to the team manager within 10 days of the incident. Player is suspended until the hearing takes place and a decision is made. The individual involved in the incident will have seven (7) days from the date of the letter to request a formal hearing/appeal. Failure to respond will result in the Recreation Department staff determining length of suspension.

HEARING BOARD to consist of the following individuals:

- One current manager from a team not within the division of the infraction
- Umpire-in-Chief/Referee Supervisor
- One representative from a surrounding Recreation agency
- Monitor - Recreation Department staff person

The suspension board would then make a recommendation to the Director and Supervisor of the Recreation Department for final approval. This decision is then final and there are no further appeals. Any suspension other than the normal game/match suspension will also have a probation period (to be determined).

FALSIFICATION OF ANY PLAYER INFORMATION or signature on the team roster/waiver will result in a two (2) year adult athletic league suspension followed by a two (2) year probation from ALL adult athletic programs in Troy.

12. Taunting Will Not Be Tolerated. Taunting is unsportsmanlike conduct and disqualifies the offending bench personnel or contestant from (at a minimum of) that game until the next regular scheduled game. A warning may be given, but is not required, before ejection. An umpire OR Site Coordinator can rule on the taunting violation. Taunting includes any actions or comments by coaches, players or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs or personal matters. Examples of taunting that would lead to ejection include, but are not limited to, 'trash talk'; physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game; reference to sexual orientation; 'in the face' confrontation by one player to another; standing over/straddling a tackled or fallen player.

CO-ED SOFTBALL RULES

1. Five males and five females must be on the defensive team at all times (except if they have only 8 or 9 players). The positioning of these players must be as follows:
 - 2 males and 2 females in the outfield
 - 2 males and 2 females in the infield
 - 1 male and 1 female in the pitcher and catcher positionTeams can play with 5 males and 4 females and receive an automatic out in the batting order for the missing female. A team must have 4 females, if not, the game will be ruled a forfeit. Teams may play with more females than males with no penalty (Ex. 5 females and 4 males or 8 females and 2 males).

2. You must alternate the sexes in your batting order. No exceptions will be made for this rule except if you have more females than males playing (i.e. 8 females, 2 males). The batting order must be alternated from the first batter on down through the line-up...male, female, male, female, female, female, etc...
3. Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award. The next batter (a female) will bat. EXCEPTION: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. (ASA rule 8-C-4)
4. A team may use a continuous batting order. (See page 2 for clarification of rule.)
OPTIONAL.

PROCEDURES

1. Bases for games provided by the Recreation Department. There are no bases provided for practices.
2. Diamond playability will be determined by the Recreation Department until 4:30 p.m. Game status updates will be available in the following ways:
 - 1) Phone - weather hotline recording (248)689-9756
 - 2) Website - <http://webapps.troy.mi.gov/RecreationWeatherUpdates>
 - 3) Text Message - <http://troy.mi.gov/> Click on green box at top "Subscribe to City News and Updates". Follow sign up process and click on "Recreation Weather Updates"

After 4:30 p.m., if games are not cancelled, teams should report to fields. If inclement weather occurs after 4:30 p.m., the two-team managers and the umpire shall determine if the game shall be played. The three parties shall discuss and vote on status of the game, two votes shall determine outcome. Every effort will be made to update weather notification alerts after 4:30 p.m., but it is not always possible.

3. Equipment to be provided by the teams: bats, practice softballs, gloves, etc.
4. Umpire costs are \$14.00 per game payable at the field only in cash. (See handbook for additional information.)
5. An official scorekeeper will be provided (when possible) by the Recreation Department for all games. When a scorekeeper is not present, the home team is responsible for supplying a scorekeeper (managers should consult after each half inning to verify the score). The winning team is then responsible for getting the umpire's signature and submitting scoresheet to the umpire.

POLICIES

1. Awards for the team sponsor are given to the regular season league champion and runner-up and for the champion and runner-up of the playoffs (summer only). Individual awards (tee shirts) are given to the regular season and playoff champion teams. If a tie exists for during the regular season, the tiebreaker method will be applied to determine final standings.
2. Batting practice is not allowed on the infields on league nights, and not allowed within 5 minutes of the start of a league game. Be prepared to start your game once the proceeding game is completed. Line-ups should be on the scoresheet at least five minutes prior to game scheduled time.
3. Doubleheaders may be played on some league nights and in playoffs.
4. Official game balls are as follows: Trump .52/300 - optic yellow softballs. Game softballs will be provided on site.
5. The Troy Recreation Department reserves the right to rule and make recommendations on any and all matters related to the softball leagues which it deems beneficial to the league.
6. Safety considerations must always be evaluated by managers and umpires. The majority shall decide playability of the field. Neither the City of Troy, nor the Troy School District, nor the umpires will be responsible for any injuries incurred as a result of individuals participating in the Troy softball program. If the Oakland County tornado siren goes on signifying a "tornado warning", all games will automatically cease. If enough innings were played for an "official" game, the score will be final. If the minimum game standards were not met, the game will be "replayed" (from the start of the game) at a later date.
7. All participants in any softball league should be prepared for player identification checks throughout the season. All players should have their driver's license in their possession at all times. Failure to provide a current valid Michigan driver's license (with photo) or a state of Michigan picture I.D. may result in forfeiture of game and further suspension.
8. Participants in a specialty league (coed) may also play in other leagues (Ex. a male may play in a coed league and a men's league). Games will not be scheduled to accommodate players playing in more than one league. A player may play in two Co-ed leagues as long as divisional level is the same.

Have a Great Season!